

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCCT-02 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-07 SP-03 OC-06

OPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01

SS-20 SY-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PC-04 IO-14 DRC-01 /161 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7532

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS NG

SUBJECT: MILITARY TAKEOVER IN NIGER

REF: NIAMEY 1071

1. IN BRIEF RADIO INTERVIEW HELD LATE AFTERNOON
APRIL 15 LT. COL. SEYNI ELABORATED FURTHER ON REASONS FOR MILI-
TARY TAKE OVER. HE SAID NIGER WAS IN CATASTROPHIC SITUATION BE-
CAUSE OF COMBINATION OF DROUGHT, BAD MANAGEMENT AND CORRUPTION
AND THUS DRASTIC ACTION REQUIRED OF ARMY. MANY NIGERIENS WERE
HUNGRY AND COULD NOT COUNT ON DAMY MEAL AND IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES
ARMY COULD NOT QUOTE JUST SIT AROUND WITH EYES CLOSED OR ARMS
FOLDED UNQUOTE.

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2. SPEAKING OF NEW GOVERNMENT SEYNI SAID SUPREME ORGANIZATION (ORGANE SUPREME) WOULD BE SET UP SOON AND WOULD BE COMPOSED OF MILITARY OFFICERS. ORGANIZATION WOULD DIRECT GOVERNMENTAL MINISTRIES AND SERVICES.

3. COL. SEYNI AGAIN CALLED ATTENTION IN INTERVIEW THAT ARMY ACTED IN UNIFIED AND DISCIPLINED MANNER AND THAT HE HAD FULL SUPPORT OF HIS DEPUTY MAJOR SANI SIDDO. (LATTER HAD REPUTATION OF BEING CLOSE CONFIDANT AND TRUSTED ADVISOR OF PRESIDENT DIORI).

4. TOWARD EVENING SEVERAL GROUPS OF STUDENTS MARCHED OR RODE MOTOR BIKES THROUGH TOWN CARRYING HASTILY DRAWN PLACARDS LAUDING MILITARY TAKE OVER. TELEGRAMS OF SUPPORT FOR ARMY FROM LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS, VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN READ ON RADIO.

5. MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ISSUED SEVERAL COMMUNIQUEES ANNOUNCING A) THAT ALL POLITICAL DETAINEES OF FORMER REGIME HAVE BEEN RELEASED; B) THAT ALL ADMINISTRATIVE VEHICLES MUST BE TURNED IN TOMORROW MORNING AND ALL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS MUST REPORT WITH VEHICLE RECORDS AND C) THAT ALL WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION PASSED OUT BY FORMER REGIME TO MILITIA MUST BE SURRENDERED TO ARMY OR POLICE.

6. NO EFFORT HAS YET BEEN MADE BY NEW GOVERNMENT TO COMMUNICATE WITH DIPLOMATIC CORPS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS AID CEREALS TEAM PLANS TO WORK AT EMBASSY AND FOR MOMENT AVOID CONTACTS WITH GON OFFICIALS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL. TEXAS TECH/AFRICARE TEAM COMPLETELY STYMIED SINCE ALL DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO RANCH PROJECT WERE IN ENTENTE VILLAS NOW TAKEN OVER BY ARMY. CONCERNING RELIEF OPERATIONS IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SORGHUM SHIPMENTS CONTINUE IF WIDESPREAD SHORTAGES ARE TO BE AVOIDED.
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